

REMARKS

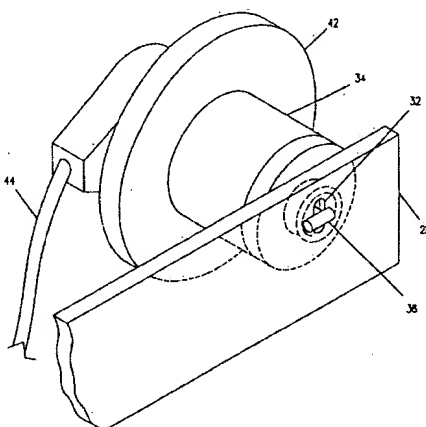
The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the final Office action dated October 20, 2003. Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. In the Office action, claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,687,592 to Penniman et al. Claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,275,378 to Lee et al. Furthermore, claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Penniman in view of either U.S. Patent No. 5,526,227 to Satou et al. or U.S. Patent No. 6,144,360 to Evinicky et al., and claim 7 is rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,627,589 to Hotsumi. Additionally, claims 3, 11, 12, and 14-16 are rejected under § 103(a) as obvious over Lee in view of either Satou or Evanicky, and claim 13 is rejected under the same combination of references as claim 11, and in further view of Hotsumi. In view of the amendments above, and the remarks below, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and allowance of the pending claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

First, claim 1 is amended herein to recite an apparatus including a housing having an access door permitting access to an interior of the housing, the access door movable between a closed position and an open position, a slot extending through the housing, the slot sized and located to receive a lock head of a locking device when the lock head exhibits a first orientation and to retain the lock head when the lock head exhibits a second orientation, and a latch assembly disposed in the housing to maintain the access

door in the closed position when the lock head exhibits the second orientation, and to permit the access door to be opened when the lock head exhibits the first orientation and is positioned within the slot.

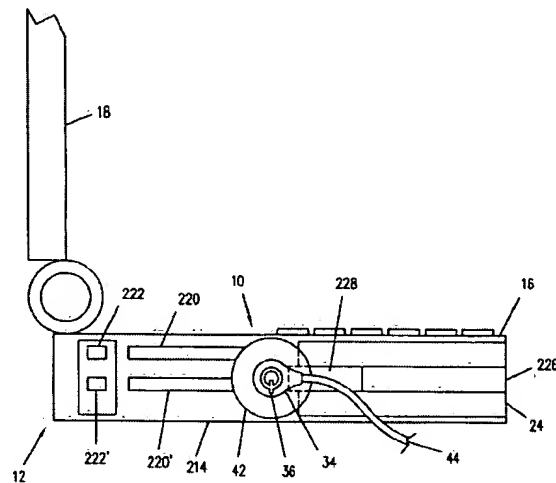
In contrast, Penniman does not disclose an apparatus having a latch assembly that permits the access door to be opened when a lock head is positioned in an unlocked configuration within a slot configured to receive the lock head. Instead, Penniman discloses a latch that prevents a disk drive door from being opened unless the lock is completely withdrawn from the lock opening. This is because the locking head extends through a hole in the tongue, shown at 28 in Fig. 2 from Penniman (reproduced below), that holds the hard disk drive door closed. Even if the locking head is in an unlocked position, it still blocks removal of the tongue.



Penniman Fig. 2

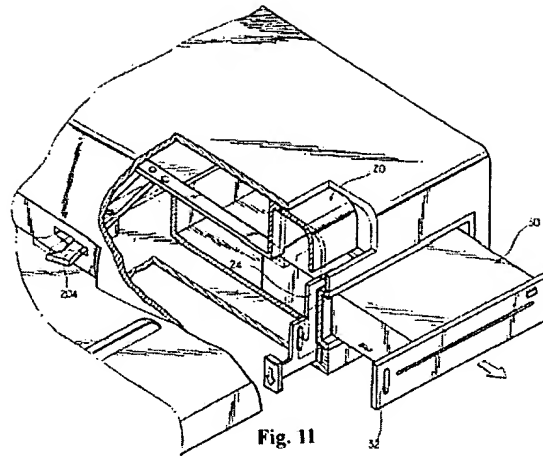
The only other embodiment shown in Penniman of a mechanism for locking a disk drive door is shown in Fig. 5 (reproduced below), where a flange of the locking device blocks the disk drive door. Here again, the locking device must be removed from the lock opening before the disk drive door can be opened. Thus, in both of these

embodiments, the lock must be completely removed from the lock opening before the disk drive door can be opened. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is not anticipated by Penniman. Furthermore, claim 2 depends from and includes all of the elements of claim 1, and is therefore also not anticipated by Penniman.



Penniman Fig. 5

Lee also does not disclose an apparatus meeting all of the elements of amended claim 1. The locking mechanism of Lee, shown in Fig. 11 (reproduced below), includes a slot 32 that extends through the removable input/output module and through the housing. Thus, for the input/output module to be removed, the lock must be completely removed from the slot. Therefore, Lee does not show an apparatus having a latch assembly that permits the access door to be opened when a lock head is positioned in an unlocked configuration within a slot configured to receive the lock head. For at least this reason, claim 1 is not anticipated by Lee, and is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claim 2 depends from and includes all of the elements of claim 1. Therefore, claim 2 is also not anticipated by Lee, and is in condition for allowance.



Lee Fig. 11

Next, claim 4 is herein amended to recite an apparatus including a housing including an access door permitting access to an interior of the housing, a slot extending through the housing, the slot sized and located to receive a lock head of a removable locking device when the lock head exhibits a first orientation and to retain the lock head when the lock head exhibits a second orientation, a latch to engage the access door and maintain the access door in the closed position when the latch is at a first position, the latch movable to a second position wherein the latch disengages the access door to enable the access door to move toward the open position, and a stop element disposed on the latch, the stop element to engage the lock head and to maintain the latch in the first position when the lock head exhibits the second orientation, and to allow the latch to be moved to the second position when the lock head is positioned in the slot and exhibits the first orientation.

In contrast, Lee does not disclose a stop element disposed on the latch, the stop element to engage the lock head and to maintain the latch in the first position when the

lock head exhibits a second orientation, and to allow the latch to be moved to the second position when the lock head is positioned in the slot and exhibits a first orientation. Instead, as described above in the context of claim 1, Lee shows includes a slot that extends through the removable input/output module and through the housing. Thus, for the input/output module of Lee to be removed, the lock must be completely removed from the slot. Therefore, claim 4 is not anticipated by Lee, and is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 5-6 and 8-10 depend from and include all of the elements of claim 4. Thus, these claims are also not anticipated by Lee, and are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

First, claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Penniman in view of either Satou or Evanicky, and also over Lee in view of either Satou or Evanicky. However, in light of the amendments made to claim 1, this rejection is improper and should be withdrawn. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the prior art references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. MPEP § 2143. As described above for claim 1, from which claim 3 depends, neither Penniman nor Lee discloses an apparatus having a latch assembly that permits the access door to be opened when a lock head is positioned in an unlocked configuration within a slot configured to receive the lock head.

Furthermore, neither Satou nor Evanicky discloses such a latch assembly. Satou discloses a locking device at 280 in Fig. 24, but the locking device of Satou functions to move and secure a locking claw 170 to attach a computer 2 to a computer expanding

apparatus 215. Satou neither discloses nor suggests a latch that maintains an access door in the closed position when the lock head exhibits the second orientation, and permits the access door to be opened when the lock head exhibits the first orientation and is positioned within the slot. Evanicky also does not disclose or suggest a latch meeting all of the elements of claim 3. Therefore, no combination of Penniman, Lee, Satou or Evanicky discloses or suggests all of the elements of claim 3, and claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

Next, in light of the amendments made to claim 4, the rejection of claim 7 under § 103(a) as obvious over Lee in view of Hotsumi is also improper, and should be withdrawn. As described above, Lee does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 4, from which claim 7 depends. Furthermore, the combination of Lee and Hotsumi also does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of amended claim 4. For example, neither Lee nor Hotsumi discloses or suggests a stop element disposed on a latch, the stop element to engage a lock head and to maintain the latch in the first position when the lock head exhibits a second orientation, and to allow the latch to be moved to the second position when the lock head is positioned in the slot and exhibits the first orientation. Thus, claim 7 is not obvious over this combination of references, and is in condition for allowance.

Next, claims 11, 12, and 14-16 are rejected under § 103(a) as obvious over Lee in view of either Satou or Evanicky. In response, claim 11 is herein amended to recite that the access door is situated on a first side of the housing, that the slot extends through a second side of the housing, the slot sized and located to receive a lock head of a locking

device when the lock head exhibits a first orientation and to retain a lock head when the lock head exhibits a second orientation, and that the a latch is movable along the second side of the housing to a second position wherein the latch disengages the access door to enable the access door to move toward the open position.

In contrast, no combination of Lee with Satou and/or Evanicky discloses all of the elements of amended claim 11. The removable input/output device of Lee is disposed on the same side of the housing as the lock-receiving slot. Evanicky does not disclose a lock, and Satou does not disclose an access door, so together they cannot suggest the combination of an access door on a first side of a projector, a slot for receiving a lock on a second side of the projector, and a latch movable along the second side of the projectors. For at least this reason, amended claim 11 not obvious over any combination of Lee, Evanicky and Satou, and is therefore in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 12 and 14-16 depend from and include all of the elements of claim 11, and are thus also in condition for allowance.

Finally, claim 13 is rejected under the same combination of references as claim 11, and in further view of Hotsumi. As described above, no combination of Lee, Evanicky and Satou discloses or suggests all of the limitations of claim 11, from which claim 13 depends. Furthermore, the combination of these references with Hotsumi also does not disclose or suggest every element of claim 11. For example, Hotsumi does not disclose an access door. Therefore, Hotsumi cannot be combined with Lee to disclose or suggest an access door on a first side of a projector, a slot to receive a lock on a second side of the projector, and a latch movable along the second side of the projector. For at least this

reason, claim 13 is not obvious over Lee in view of Evanicky, Satou or Hotsumi, and is therefore in condition for allowance.

New claims

New claims 17-21 are also presented herein. Applicants believe that these new claims include elements not taught or suggested by the prior art, and therefore that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

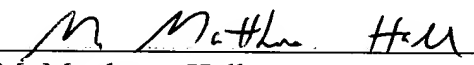
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on February 2, 2004.


Renee Knight

Respectfully submitted,

KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.


M. Matthews Hall
Registration No. 43,653
Customer No. 23581
Of Attorneys for Applicants/Assignee
520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 224-6655
Facsimile: (503) 295-6679